

SENATE BILL 626

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By: **Senators Kramer, Beidle, Elfreth, Feldman, Hayes, Hershey, Klausmeier, Lam, Patterson, and Waldstreicher**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2020

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Retail Pet Stores – Transportation of Cats and Dogs by Common Carrier –**
3 **Prohibition**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting certain retail pet stores from transporting into or within
5 the State, by common carrier or other for–hire transportation service, cats or dogs
6 for sale or transfer in the State; and generally relating to retail pet stores.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
8 Article – Business Regulation
9 Section 19–701(a) and (g)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Business Regulation
14 Section 19–703
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – Business Regulation**

20 19–701.

21 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

22 (g) “Retail pet store” means a for–profit establishment open to the public that
23 sells or offers for sale domestic animals to be kept as household pets.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 19-703.

2 (a) A retail pet store may not:

3 (1) offer for sale or otherwise transfer or dispose of cats or dogs; OR

4 (2) **TRANSPORT INTO OR WITHIN THE STATE, BY COMMON CARRIER**
5 **OR OTHER FOR-HIRE TRANSPORTATION SERVICE, CATS OR DOGS FOR SALE OR**
6 **TRANSFER IN THE STATE.**

7 (b) This section may not be construed to prohibit a retail pet store from
8 collaborating with an animal welfare organization or animal control unit to offer space for
9 these entities to showcase cats or dogs for adoption.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
11 1, 2020.